

## **Perth and Kinross Licensing Board Mainstreaming Report**

Perth and Kinross Licensing Board as a public body must comply with the general equality duty set out in the Equality Act 2010. To ensure that the Board is performing that duty, it is required to publish a mainstreaming report. The purpose of this is to report on progress made in making the equality duty integral to the exercise of the Board's functions. In other words the report should show how the work of the Board

- Eliminates discrimination, or
- Advances equality of opportunity, or
- Fosters good relations between communities

This report therefore aims to set out the ways in which the Board has made progress in mainstreaming the equality duty in its work. The Board must also prepare equality outcomes. These are contained in a separate report.

### **The Board**

The Licensing Board is responsible for the regulation of the sale of alcohol across Perth and Kinross. Its work is regulated by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The Board also regulates some gambling activity in the area, under the Gambling Act 2005. In practical terms this means that the Board makes decisions about applications for licences from those who wish to sell alcohol or run premises offering gambling. The Board also deals with complaints about licensed premises and those who hold licences.

The work of the Board in these two areas is underpinned by broad objectives.

The objectives underpinning alcohol licensing are:

- Preventing crime and disorder
- Securing public safety
- Preventing public nuisance
- Protecting and improving public health
- Protecting children from harm

The objectives underpinning gambling licensing are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

The Licensing Board is made up of 10 elected members of Perth and Kinross Council. They are appointed to the Board by the Council. The Board does not

employ staff. The work of the Board is supported by a Clerk, Depute Clerks and support staff, all of whom are employed by the Council.

The staff who support the work of the Board all receive training on equalities in accordance with the Council's Equalities Policy. Those involved in policy development and review are able to access training and support in relation to Equality Impact Assessment.

Elected members have also received equalities training. In addition, three members of the Licensing Board sit on the Council's Equality and Diversity Member Officer Group.

All of this training and involvement in equalities issues provides a foundation for mainstreaming the equality duty into the work of the Licensing Board.

### **The Board's policies and functions**

Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Board has to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy. Under the Gambling Act 2005, the Board has to produce a Statement of Principles. These policies underpin the Board's decision making and also set out the standards the Board expects licence holders to meet.

The Licensing Board's current Statement of Licensing Policy sets out that

*"The Board values the diversity that exists within Perth and Kinross and wishes to ensure full participation in the social, cultural and economic life of the area.*

*The Board opposes all forms of unlawful discrimination including discrimination on the grounds of race/ ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion and disability and recognises that discrimination creates barriers to achieving equality for all people."*

The Board uses the Council's framework in relation to Equalities Impact Assessment when developing and reviewing policies, ensuring the mainstreaming of equalities in the development and review of policy.

### **Participation and Involvement**

The Board is committed to ensuring that everyone with an interest can participate in the licensing process. The Board's policy statement says:

*"The Board will deal with all of its business in an open and transparent way. Information and assistance will be made available to those who wish to apply for a licence, to make representations or to object to an application. The Board is also aware of the need to ensure that the licensing process is accessible to all. Assistance will be available on request for those who require assistance to access any part of the process."*

The Board seeks to support this general commitment by

- Providing information both in written form and on the Council's website which complies with the Council's accessibility standards
- Holding meetings in public in the Council Chambers, which are accessible to the public
- Accessing the Council's interpreting and translation services when required
- Ensuring that staff supporting the work of the Board have received appropriate training on equality and diversity
- Providing face to face advice and support to people who are applying for licences or who want to make representations or objections to licences

### **Community Engagement and Partnership Working**

The Board consults widely with the community in relation to licence applications. Consultation generally takes place with:

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Perth and Kinross Council
- NHS Tayside
- Community Councils

In addition, applications for new licences and for major variations to existing licences are advertised on the Council website, and so consultation with the wider community takes place in that way. In addition, those who reside in very close proximity to premises seeking a licence are notified of the application by the Board. This enables any member of the community to make representations or objections in relation to a licence application.

The Board's Statement of Licensing Policy and Statement of Principles are also subject to wide consultation within the Community. In the case of both policies, consultation with the wider public took place via the Council's website. In addition the following agencies and community groups were consulted:

#### **Alcohol**

- The Local Licensing Forum for the Board area
- Perth and Kinross Council
- All Community Councils for the Board area
- Tayside Police (now Police Scotland)
- Tayside Fire and Rescue (now Scottish Fire and Rescue)
- NHS Tayside
- Perth and Kinross Community Safety Partnership
- Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service (PKAVS)

- Elected members (not sitting on the Board) for Perth and Kinross Council
- City Centre Tenants and Residents Association
- Trade organisations
- Perth and Kinross Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Perthshire Chamber of Commerce

### Gambling

- The Gambling Commission
- Tayside Police
- Tayside Fire & Rescue Service (now Scottish Fire and Rescue)
- Perth and Kinross Council
- HM Revenue & Customs
- NHS Tayside
- Trade organisations
- Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services
- GamCare

Perth and Kinross Licensing Forum is the body through which the Board can engage with representatives of the community with an interest in alcohol licensing. The Board meets with the Licensing Forum for Perth and Kinross at least on an annual basis and consults with the Forum in relation to its Statement of Licensing Policy and any other policy matters.